

Appendix III: Comments from the Department of Defense



SUSTAINMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

JAN 25 2019

Mr. William T. Woods
Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Woods:

This is the Department of Defense (DoD) response to the Government Accountability Office Draft Report, GAO-19-235, "Defense Contracting: Enhanced Information Needed on Contractor Workplace Safety," dated December 12, 2018 (GAO Code 102619).

We concur with your recommendations for the Department of Defense as follows:

RECOMMENDATION 2: The Secretary of Defense should provide information to contracting officials to advise them that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website is a resource for information about contractors' workplace safety and health records.

DoD RESPONSE: Concur. The Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting (DPC) will develop and issue guidance to contracting officials on the availability of the OSHA website by June 30, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION 3: The Secretary of Defense should explore the feasibility of requiring a safety performance rating for contracts in industries that have relatively high rates of occupational injuries, such as manufacturing, construction, and ship building and repairing.

DoD RESPONSE: Concur. The offices of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment and DPC will review safety performance ratings already used and assess broader ways to apply them by January 31, 2020.

Thank you for your support to the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. McMahon", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert H. McMahon